



# The Adoption Journey

# Who can adopt?

Our children come from a variety of backgrounds so we are looking for and welcome adopters from diverse ethnicities and backgrounds such as:

- **over the age of 21**
- **of any ethnicity**
- **single, with a partner or married**
- **any sexuality**
- **parents or not**
- **employed or unemployed**
- **living in rented or owned accommodation (adoptive child must have their own room)**



# Becoming an adopter

We aim to take adopters through the adoption process within 6 months.

## Initial step

- **Attend an information meeting**
- Complete an enquiry form
- Home visit with a social worker
- Complete a registration of interest form



## Stage one – learning (up to 2 months):

- Learning and preparation
- Complete workbook
- Checks and references

## Stage two – assessment (up to 4 months):

- Regular assessment visits with a social worker
- Prospective adopter report (PAR) completed
- Attend adoption panel for recommendation of approval
- Recommendation approved to become an adopter



## Post approval

- A social worker will look for the right child to match you with

# Becoming an adoptive parent

- We consider children living with prospective adopters based on the child's needs.
- We search for children: in Southwark's care; from our consortium: the Adoption Register; Adoption Link and adoption publications.
- Once a child is identified there is a matching process with the prospective adopter leading to an independent panel to recommend approval of the match.
- Once approved introductions begin between the adopter and the child guided and supported by the adoption service.
- The child moves to live with their forever family.
- A court makes an adoption order to formally legalise the adoption.

